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1. (Amended) A broadcast storing and displaying apparatus which comprises:

a network;

a network management apparatus for managing said network; and

plural types of video apparatuses connected to said network,

wherein each of said plural types of video apparatuses transmits the state thereof to said network, said network management apparatus stores the states of said plural types of video apparatuses, and each of said plural types of video apparatuses inquires about the states of the other video apparatuses to said network management apparatus and then determines, based solely on information received regarding the states of the other video apparatuses and without any user input, a video apparatus to be a communication partner on the basis of the states of the other video apparatuses which are obtained from said network management apparatus.

2. (Amended) The broadcasting storing and display apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein there are provided a plurality of video apparatuses of the same type which are connected to said network.

3. (Amended) A broadcast storing and displaying apparatus which comprises:

a network; and

plural types of video apparatuses connected to said network,

wherein each of said plural types of video apparatuses inquires about the states of the other video apparatuses through said network to the other video apparatuses and then determines, based solely on information received regarding the states of the other video apparatuses and without any user input, a video apparatus to be a communication partner on the basis of the states of the other video apparatuses which are obtained from the other video apparatuses.

4. (Amended) The broadcasting storing and display apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are provided a plurality of video apparatuses of the same type which are connected to said network.

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5. (Amended) A network management apparatus connected to a network to which plural types of video apparatuses are connected, which comprises:

means for storing state of each of the video apparatuses when the video apparatus transmits the state thereof to said network; and

means for transmitting the states of the video apparatuses when each of the video apparatuses inquires about the states of the video apparatuses,

wherein the states include: a) normally operating and currently available state, b) normally operating and currently unavailable state, and c) abnormally operating state.

7. (Amended) A video apparatus connected to a network to which a network management apparatus for managing the network and plural types of video apparatuses are connected, which comprises:

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means for transmitting the state thereof to said network; and

means for inquiring about the states of other video apparatuses to said network management apparatus and then determining a video apparatus to be a communication partner on the basis of the states of said other video apparatuses which are obtained from said network management apparatus,

wherein the states include: a) normally operating and currently available state, b) normally operating and currently unavailable state, and c) abnormally operating state.

9. (Amended) A video apparatus connected to a network to which plural types of video apparatuses are connected, which comprises:

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means for transmitting the state thereof to said network; and

means for inquiring about the states of other video apparatuses to said other video apparatuses and then determining a video apparatus to be a

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communication partner on the basis of the states of said other video apparatuses which are obtained from said other video apparatuses,

wherein the states include: a) normally operating and currently available state, b) normally operating and currently unavailable state, and c) abnormally operating state.

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28. (Amended) A broadcast receiving and storing apparatus which comprises:

a broadcast receiving component for receiving a broadcast program;

broadcast storing components for storing broadcast programs;

a managing component for managing states of said broadcast storing components; and

a network for connecting said broadcast receiving component, said broadcast storing components and said managing component;

wherein said managing component stores said states; and

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said broadcasting receiving component selects one or more broadcast storing components from said broadcast storing components as broadcast storing components which store a program which said broadcasting receiving component receives on the basis of states obtained from said managing component through said network,

wherein the states include: a) normally operating and currently available state, b) normally operating and currently unavailable state, and c) abnormally operating state.

29. (Amended) A broadcast receiving and storing apparatus which comprises:

a broadcast receiving component for receiving a broadcast program;

broadcast storing components for storing broadcast programs; and

a network for connecting said broadcast receiving component, and said broadcast storing components;

wherein said broadcasting receiving component selects one or more broadcast storing components from said broadcast storing components as

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broadcast storing components which store a program which said broadcasting receiving component receives on the basis of states obtained from said broadcast storing components through said network,

wherein the states include: a) normally operating and currently available state, b) normally operating and currently unavailable state, and c) abnormally operating state.

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35. (New) The broadcasting, storing and displaying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communication partner is automatically selected by one of the video apparatuses based on information concerning currently available resources for each of the other apparatuses.

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36. (New) The broadcasting, storing and displaying apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the currently available resources of each of the other video apparatuses do not include resources that are currently assigned to any of the video apparatuses.

37. (New) The broadcasting, storing and displaying apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the communication partner is automatically selected by one of the video apparatuses based on information concerning currently available resources for each of the other apparatuses.

38. (New) The broadcasting, storing and displaying apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein the currently available resources of each of the other video apparatuses do not include resources that are currently assigned to any of the video apparatuses.

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